

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUALA 01250 051033Z

17

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 SSC-01 CPR-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /017 W

----- 009416

O R 050946Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2661

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 1250

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP MY PINR

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT: REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
ON HER MAJESTY THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG AND DATIN SUHAILA

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 1220, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 1219, STATE 049557

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS ADDITIONAL BIO DATA FROM  
RELIABLE FIRST OR SECOND HAND SOURCES ON THE RAJA PERMAISURI  
AGUNG (QUEEN) AND DATIN SUHAILA, WIFE OF PRIME MINISTER  
DATUK HUSSEIN BIN DATUK ONN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG. SHE PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS A  
GREAT DEAL OF ENGLISH AND SPEAKS A LITTLE. SHE IS VERY  
FRIENDLY AND CHATTY AND IS VERY MUCH A HOUSEWIFE AND INTERESTED  
IN HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS. SHE HAS A NUMBER OF GRANDCHILDREN,  
SEVERAL OF WHOM LIVE WITH HER AT THE PALACE. HER MAJESTY  
SUPPOSEDLY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENCOURAGING HER HUSBAND TO  
SEEK THE POSITION OF AGUNG. SUGGESTED TOPICS OF CONVERSATION:  
IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF HER INTERESTS IN COLLECTING  
HANDICRAFTS AND ANTIQUES (KELANTAN IS NOTABLE FOR THESE)  
AND RAISING FLOWERS, SHE LIKES CLOTHES, ESPECIALLY OF  
FINE FABRICS AND BROCADES. (KELANTAN IS FAMED  
FOR FINE HANDLOOM SILKS AND IS A CENTER OF MALAYSIAN  
BATIK FABRIC PRODUCTION). OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS  
INCLUDE HER GRANDCHILDREN AND HOW SHE LIKES LIVING IN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KUALA 01250 051033Z

KUALA LUMPUR (RUMOR HAS IT THAT SHE LOVES K.L.,

WHICH FOR HER REPRESENTS AN INTERESTING AND COSMOPOLITAN SETTING). PROBLEMS OF MANAGING A LARGE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD ALSO WOULD SEEM TO BE A PROMISING AREA OF CONVERSATION.

3. DATIN SUHAILA. SHE WAS BORN OCTOBER 24, 1931, IN MUAR, JOHORE STATE, HER HUSBAND'S HOME STATE. SHE RECEIVED A NORMAL SECONDARY ENGLISH EDUCATION AT A CONVENT SCHOOL IN JOHORE (MANY MUSLIMS ATTEND CHRISTIAN ADMINISTERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS). WHILE A STUDENT SHE BECAME VERY INTERESTED AND ACTIVE IN CONCERTS AND PLAYS, AND IT WAS AT AN UMNO-SPONSORED STAGE PRODUCTION THAT SHE FIRST MET HER HUSBAND TO BE (SHE WAS PLAYING THE PART OF THE BRIDEGROOM AND HER YOUNGER SISTER RAHAH, PLAYED THE BRIDE). SHE STILL RETAINS THIS INTEREST IN DRAMATICS. SHE ALSO ENJOYS SEMI-CLASSICAL MUSIC, FLOWER ARRANGING, COLLECTING ANTIQUES, AND GARDENING. HER CHILDREN CAME IN TWO BATCHES; THE FIRST THREE NOW AGES 20-24, AND THE SECOND THREE NOW 9-14. THE ELDEST, A DAUGHTER, IS A LAWYER WITH HUSSEIN ONN'S FORMER LAW FIRM (SKRINE & CO.) LIVING IN PENANG WITH HER HUSBAND, ALSO A LAWYER. THEY WERE MARRIED IN LONDON AND HAVE A CHILD ABOUT TWO MONTHS OLD. (ALTHOUGH THE PARENTS BITTERLY DISAPPROVED OF THE MARRIAGE THEY LATER RECONCILED TO IT AND ARE VERY PROUD OF THEIR GRANDCHILD.)

4. DATIN SUHAILA SPEAKS ENGLISH AND IS A RELAXED, INTELLIGENT WOMAN. SHE IS PLEASANT, OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY. ALTHOUGH NOT AN AGGRESSIVELY ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON SHE IS A VERY GOOD AND INTERESTED AND INTERESTING CONVERSATIONALIST. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE POLITICAL CONTEXT AND HAVE PLAYED A NOTABLY ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS. SHE SERVES ON BOARDS OF A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND IS ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S AFFAIRS. A PARTICULAR INTEREST IS IN MULTI-RACIAL SCHOOLING AS ONE SOLUTION TO THE COUNTRY'S RACIAL PROBLEMS. SHE IS NOT AS INVOLVED IN ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AS IS HER YOUNGER SISTER, TOH PUAN RAHAH. SHE DOES A LOT OF HER OWN COOKING, AS HER HUSBAND EATS PRIMARILY ENGLISH FOOD (PRESUMABLY FOR HEALTH REASONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KUALA 01250 051033Z

AS MUCH AS FOR PERSONAL PREFERENCE).

5. CONVERSATION TOPICS: CONVERSATION WITH HER IS NO PROBLEM. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE NOTED INTERESTS, ANOTHER ASPECT WORTH PURSUING IS HOW SHE COPIES WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL VISITORS WHO OFTEN ARRIVE UNEXPECTEDLY IN GROUPS OF 100-150; SHE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING AN EXCELLENT HOSTESS. OBSERVERS ALSO ARE

IMPRESSED BY THE FACT WHEN SHE AND HER HUSBAND  
HAVE OPEN HOUSES ON LOCAL HOLIDAYS, PEOPLE OF ALL RANKS  
AND WALKS OF LIFE ARE EQUALLY WELCOMED.  
UNDERHILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KUALA01250  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760084-0356  
**From:** KUALA LUMPUR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadcjc.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 KUALA LUMPUR 1220, 76 KUALA LUMPUR 1219, 76 STATE 49557  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT: REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HER MAJESTY THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG AND DATIN SUHAILA  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PINR, MY, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A), (RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG), (DATIN SUHAILA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006